

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN
PLUMBERS AND JOURNEYMEN STEAMFITTERS
AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 357
PENSION FUND; KALAMAZOO PLUMBERS
STEAMFITTERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION
NO. 357 HEALTH AND WELFARE INSURANCE
FUND; KALAMAZOO PLUMBERS AND
PIPEFITTERS LOCAL NO. 357 401(K) FUND;
KALAMAZOO PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS AND
HVAC SERVICE LOCAL 357 JOINT
APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING FUND;
KALAMAZOO PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS
LOCAL 357 INDUSTRY FUND; AND UNITED
ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN PLUMBERS
AND JOURNEYMEN STEAMFITTERS
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FUND;

Case No.:
HON.
Magistrate Judge:

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAN WOOD COMPANY, a Michigan corporation,
MARION J. WOOD, an individual, and DANIEL J.
WOOD, JR., an individual, jointly and severally,

Defendants.

NOVARA TESIJA & CATENACCI, PLLC ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS EDWARD J. PASTERNAK (P58766) 888 W. BIG BEAVER RD., SUITE 600 TROY, MI 48084 (248) 354-0380 ejp@ntclaw.com	
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COMPLAINT

NOW COME Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys, NOVARA TESIJA & CATENACCI, PLLC, and for their Complaint, state as follows:

1. The Trustees of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Journeymen Steamfitters Local Union No. 357 Pension Fund; Kalamazoo Plumbers Steamfitters and Pipefitters Local Union No. 357 Health and Welfare Insurance Fund; Kalamazoo Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 357 401(k) Fund; Kalamazoo Plumbers, Pipefitters and HVAC Service Local 357 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Fund; Kalamazoo Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 357 Industry; United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Journeymen Steamfitters International Training Fund; (hereinafter "Funds") are each a jointly-trusted fund established pursuant to Section 302 of the Labor Management Relations Act ("LMRA"), 29 U.S.C. Section 186 and Sections 302 and 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. Sections 1132 and 1145, and bring this action on behalf of their individual participants.

2. The Kalamazoo Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 357 (hereinafter "Union" or "Local 357") is a labor organization, as defined in Section 451 of the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. § 152 (5), with its principal place of business located at 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, Michigan 49087.

3. Upon information, knowledge and belief Defendant, Dan Wood Company is a Michigan corporation (hereinafter referred to as “Company”), and the principal place of business being 3950 E Milham Rd., Portage, MI 49002.

4. Upon information and belief Marion J. Wood is the owner, officer, and president of Dan Wood Company, located at 3950 E Milham Rd., Portage, MI 49002, and does business in the State of Michigan.

5. Upon information and belief Daniel J. Wood, Jr. is the owner, officer, and director of Dan Wood Company, located at 3950 E Milham Rd., Portage, MI 49002, and does business in the State of Michigan.

6. Jurisdiction of this Court is founded on Section 301(a) of the LMRA, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Section 185(a) and Sections 502 and 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. Section 1132 and 1145, as amended by the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendment Act of 1980 ("MPPAA") and Federal common law. This Court also has pendent jurisdiction of any state-law claims ancillary to the relief sought herein.

COUNT I
ERISA: DELINQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS

7. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 6 of their Complaint as fully set forth herein.

8. Section 515 of ERISA provides that “every employer who is obligated to make contributions to a multi-employer plan under the terms of the plan or under the terms of a collectively bargained agreement shall, to the extent not inconsistent with law, make such contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of such plan or such agreement.”

9. Section 502 of ERISA provides a federal forum for enforcement of the various duties imposed by ERISA, including, but not limited to, allowance of a lawsuit to enjoin any act which violates ERISA or to obtain other appropriate legal and equitable relief.

10. Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement (hereinafter “CBA”) between Company and the Union, Company agreed to make employee fringe benefit contributions and assessments to the Funds for each employee covered by the collective bargaining agreement, which are individuals in the appropriate bargaining unit who perform covered work ("Employees"), and to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth in the Funds' Trust Agreements (the "Trust Agreements"). Defendants have copies of all records within their files.

11. The Funds are third-party beneficiaries of the parties’ collective bargaining agreement.

12. Company has violated both its contractual and statutory obligations by failing to submit its pertinent books and records for an audit and failing to make all of the fringe benefit contributions and assessments due on behalf of each Employee covered by the collective bargaining agreement and as incorporated in same, the relevant Trust Agreements.

13. As a result of Company's violations of its contractual and statutory obligations, Defendants have violated ERISA, the collective bargaining agreement and the relevant Trust Agreements.

14. Plaintiffs are entitled to all remedies under ERISA, including, but not limited to, payment of fringe benefit contributions owed, audit assessments, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees and costs.

15. At all relevant times, Defendant Company was bound to the parties' collective bargaining agreement.

16. The Funds have been damaged in such amount as is found due by an audit.

17. Further, in operating Company, upon information, knowledge and belief, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. have, among other things, (a) failed to follow business formalities, (b) failed to adequately capitalize the business which has caused a failure to remit contributions to Plaintiffs, (c)

commingled personal and business assets, and (d) committed fraud by taking monies from the business while failing to make fringe benefit contributions to Plaintiffs.

18. An injustice will be imposed on Plaintiffs in the absence of individual liability because the ability of Defendant Company to pay delinquencies owed to Plaintiffs and their participants is in serious doubt.

19. Defendant Company has fraudulently avoided paying required benefit contributions to Plaintiffs and engaged in misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, converting money paid to it for the purpose of paying benefit contributions to Plaintiff Funds and retaining monies required to be paid for the benefit of its employees.

20. As officers, directors, managers, members and/or shareholders and persons who make decisions, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr, are responsible for Defendant Company's compliance with its contractual and statutory obligations to Plaintiffs.

21. Notwithstanding Company's contractual and statutory obligations, upon information, knowledge and belief, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. have failed to follow business formalities, had personal knowledge of

Company's undercapitalization, and with the requisite intent, fraudulently and improperly diverted monies which were to be paid for the benefit of its employees.

22. Because of Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr.'s actions and/or inactions cited within this Complaint, Plaintiffs have suffered financial losses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that the Honorable Court grant the following relief:

- a. Order an audit of the Company to determine the amount due the Funds;
- b. Enter a judgment in the Plaintiffs' favor against Company and individual Defendants for all amounts revealed as owing by said audit, together with any accumulated interest thereon, actual attorney fees, court costs, audit and other collection costs and other sums as may become due or discovered to be due the Funds during the pendency of this action;
- c. That jurisdiction of this matter be retained pending compliance with the Court's orders; and
- d. Any such other, further or different relief as may be just and equitable under the circumstances.

COUNT II
BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

23. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 22 of their Complaint as fully set forth herein.

General

24. Participants of the Funds were employed by Company to perform work and provide labor on various construction projects in the State of Michigan.

25. The participants of the Funds provided labor and services, on behalf of Company, pursuant to the parties' CBA and thus earned outstanding fringe benefit contributions in connection with and in furtherance of their employment and labor on said projects.

26. Company was obligated to pay fringe benefit contributions to the Funds for these participants on said projects.

27. The outstanding accrued fringe benefit contributions were properly payable to the Funds administered by Plaintiffs when due.

28. Company received monies on said projects, but failed to pay all of the fringe benefit contributions owed the Funds on said projects when due.

29. The accrued fringe benefit contributions and monies in Company's possession, custody and/or control from said projects which were available to pay the participants' accrued fringe benefit contributions were to be held in trust by Defendants in their capacity as fiduciaries, as required by ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1145, until Defendants paid to Plaintiffs said fringe benefit contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of their CBA and Trust Agreements.

30. The Trust Agreements for the Funds, incorporated by the relevant CBA provide that unpaid contributions become plan assets at the time they become due.

31. Defendants, including the individual Defendants, being Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr., had actual and/or constructive notice of the above-referenced Trust Agreements and their respective amendments.

32. Thus, Company accrued fringe benefit contributions owed to the Funds on said projects, that became plan assets of the respective Funds administered by Plaintiffs at the time they became due, as provided for in the Trust Agreement and Plan documents, within the meaning of ERISA §3(21)(A); 29 U.S.C. §1002(21)(A).

33. ERISA provides that a person is a fiduciary with respect to the Funds to the extent that the person exercises any discretionary authority or control with the respect to the disposition of Plan assets. ERISA §3(21)(A); 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A).

34. Owners, officers, and/or directors of Company are considered fiduciaries of the Funds based upon the conduct and authority of said people, including, but not limited to, their personal exercise of discretionary authority and control over Funds' assets.

MARION J. WOOD AND DANIEL J. WOOD, JR.

35. Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. as owners, officers, and/or directors of Company, and upon information, knowledge and belief, personally exercised discretionary authority and control over the disposition of Company's accrued fringe benefit contributions, being plan assets recognized by ERISA.

36. Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr., as owners, officers, and/or directors of Company are considered a fiduciary of the Funds based upon their conduct and authority over the contributions associated with same.

37. Upon information, knowledge and belief, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr., as owners, officers, and/or directors of Company, personally exercised discretionary authority and control over the disposition of Company's accrued fringe benefit contributions, which are plan assets as defined by ERISA and the relevant Trust Agreement and Plan documents.

38. Since Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr., as owners, officers, and/or directors of Company personally exercised discretionary authority and control over Company's accrued fringe benefit contributions, being plan assets, they are a fiduciary of the Funds.

39. Although legally and contractually obligated to do so, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. failed to turn over the above-mentioned plan assets by failing to pay all of the accrued outstanding fringe benefit contributions to Plaintiffs when due.

40. Upon information, knowledge and belief, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. utilized the accrued outstanding fringe benefit contributions and monies within their possession, custody and/or control for purposes other than payment to Plaintiffs.

41. In failing to turn over such plan assets to Plaintiffs, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. violated 29 U.S.C. §§1145, 1104 and 1109, and his obligations under the CBA and Trust Agreements.

42. Defendant Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr.'s failure to turn over the plan assets, failure to make fringe benefit contributions to Plaintiffs, failure to account for those contributions, and misuse of funds and monies otherwise payable to Plaintiffs, constitutes a breach of fiduciary duties regarding the Funds pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1104(a)(1)(A) and are violations of 29 U.S.C. §§ 1145, 1104 and 1109(a).

43. Thus, by directing that Company's assets, which were owed to the Funds, be paid for other purposes instead of being deposited with the Funds for

their participants and beneficiaries, Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. failed to discharge their fiduciary duties with respect to the Funds solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries as required by ERISA 404(a)(1); 29 U.S.C. §1104(a)(1).

44. ERISA imposes personal liability on a fiduciary that breaches fiduciary duties. 29 U.S.C. §1109.

45. As a result of their above-mentioned actions, Defendant Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. breached their fiduciary duties owed to the Funds and are thus, personally liable to the Funds for such breaches.

45. Defendant Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. knew or should have known that they would be held personally liable for their above-referenced actions.

46. ERISA also provides that if there is a loss caused by a breach of fiduciary duty, the fiduciary must make the Plan whole by restoring any losses caused by the breach. 29 U.S.C. §1109.

47. Due to the above-mentioned actions and/or inactions of Defendants Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr., the loss to the Funds will be revealed by audit.

48. Defendant Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr., as a fiduciary, must make the Funds whole by restoring the above-mentioned losses to be determined, to the Funds.

49. As stated within, the Funds have been damaged in an amount found due by audit because of Defendant Marion J. Wood and Daniel J. Wood, Jr.'s breach of their fiduciary duties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant the following relief:

- a. Order an audit of the Company to determine the amount due the Funds;
- b. Enter a judgment in the Plaintiffs' favor against Company and individual Defendants for all amounts revealed as owing by said audit, together with any accumulated interest thereon, actual attorney fees, court costs, audit and other collection costs and other sums as may become due or discovered to be due the Funds during the pendency of this action;
- c. That jurisdiction of this matter be retained pending compliance with the Court's orders; and
- d. Any such other, further or different relief as may be just and equitable under the circumstances.

COUNT III
MICHIGAN BUILDING CONTRACT FUND ACT

50. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 49 of their Complaint as fully set forth herein.

51. Participants of the Funds were employed by Defendant Company to perform work on various construction projects in the State of Michigan.

52. Defendant Company has failed to pay all of the fringe benefit contributions owed the Funds on said projects.

53. The Michigan Building Contract Fund Act (the "Act"), MCLR 570.151 et seq., imposes a trust on funds paid to a building contractor with subcontractors and material men as beneficiaries of said trust.

54. Under the Act, Company, Marion J. Wood, and Daniel J. Wood, Jr. are fiduciaries and trustees for the Funds' participants, who are the beneficiaries of all monies paid to Company on said projects.

55. The Defendants have failed to pay over to the Funds the monies held in trust and covered by the Act, which are due the Plaintiffs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant the following relief:

- a. Order an audit of the Company to determine the amount due the Funds;
- b. Enter a judgment in the Plaintiffs' favor against Company and individual Defendants for all amounts revealed as owing by said audit, together with any accumulated interest thereon, actual attorney fees, court costs, audit and other collection costs and other sums as may become due or discovered to be due the Funds during the pendency of this action;

- c. That jurisdiction of this matter be retained, pending compliance with the Court's orders; and
- d. Any such other further or different relief as may be just and equitable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

NOVARA TESIJA & CATENACCI, PLLC

By: /s/Edward J. Pasternak

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Dated: May 6, 2020

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